THE WEIDELL, STEINHAUER AND SHELANDER FAMILIES OF McKEAN COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA

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KENMORE, NEW YORK

LAKELAND, FLORIDA

1989

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1989

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Introduction

The first Steinhauer came to McKean County in 1842, the first Weidells in 1875 and the first Shelanders in 1880. This is an outline of the subsequent history of these pioneers, of their families, and some of their descendants.

Information was obtained from family records, newspaper notices, cemetery markers, remembered stories, answers to questions asked of known descendants of these progenitors, public records and from fragmentary literature dealing with the early history of the area.

We felt obligated to summarize what we knew and what we discovered. To our knowledge this has not been done before. The fact that this may be the only written record is not necessarily a guaranty of its authenticity or completeness. We hope that some of it will be new to most readers and that they will find it of interest. Perhaps it will encourage someone else to do it differently and better.

At this writing only one person survives who was born a Weidell. There are many Weidell descendants, but all bear other surnames. There are no living Steinhauers directly involved in the descents of members of the other families. Shelanders thrive in Pennsylvania and North Carolina, as do Shelander descendants otherwise named.

Many of the happenings described here occurred in Pennsylvania, many in McKean County. If a geographic reference is made without precise placement, Pennsylvania and McKean County may be inferred.

The arrangement is quite straightforward. The lives of the original Weidells in this country are described first, followed by similar descriptions of their childrens' lives, arranged in the order of their birth.

Generally, the same prevails for the Steinhauers and the Shelanders except that generation progression is more significant. For these two families, the lives of the initial United States ancestor and his spouse are described in text which begins at the left margin. Members of each succeeding generation are discussed in texts beginning in progressively indented positions. Thus: (G indicates Great.)

Initiator of the family in the United States
- Children
  - Grandchildren
    - GGrandchildren
      - GGgrandchildren

The compilers felt that much of the information gathered could not be mingled with a chronological descent description without confusion on the part of the writers and the readers alike. This material is presented in a separate Supplemental Notes section, arranged in the order in which the persons involved appeared in the chronological summaries.

Errors are present. We know ourselves well enough to expect them. Please point them out and forgive us.

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OF McKEAN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

Acknowledgments

This project would never have gotten off the ground without the help of other people. The compilers are grateful to the following for their gracious, cheerful willingness to answer questions, to ask questions, to search records, to take pictures and to offer helpful suggestions.

Dutch and Ruth Shelander of Smethport, Pa.

Betty Robinson of Bradford, Pa.

Eben and Helen Wiswell of Middlebury Center, Pa.

Pauline and Dan Wisor of Reynoldsville, Pa.

Wendell Anderson of Clermont, Pa. and Mesa, Az.

Ralph E. Hill of Kenmore, N.Y.

Steven Kleisath of Platteville, Wisc.

Katherine Wiser was especially helpful in reading and re-reading the manuscript, draft after draft, scanning for improper presentation of facts, faulty spelling, dubious grammar, devious sentence structure, lack of sense, all of which she found. We are grateful to her for this as we are for many things.

Several people sent us beautiful colored photographs of family members. These remain intact in the compilers' albums. A reproduction may appear in the text, obtained from a black and white negative derived from the colored print. The reproduction may have been trimmed. In other cases size may have been enhanced to provide clarity.

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William A. Weidel was born February 2, 1845 in Freyenstein, Prussia, a town about 45 miles northwest of Berlin. Nothing is known of his early life except that he served in the Prussian army, probably before his marriage to Augusta Henrietta Muller in 1868.

Augusta was born April 8, 1850 in Freyenstein. The circumstances of her family are not known, nor are any particulars of her girlhood.

Evidently the Weidels moved to Berlin shortly after their marriage, since their first child was born there in September, 1869. They remained in Berlin through the birth of their second child and until their emigration to America in 1871.

In this country the Weidels settled first in the company mining town of Morris Run, Tioga County, Pennsylvania. William A. was employed as a coal miner and the family lived in a company house or shared one. Their daughter Anna Mae was born there in March, 1872 and their son William in February, 1874.

The personal property tax roll of Morris Run for 1874 lists William A. Weidel as a laborer with a taxable cow. No Weidel appears on any subsequent tax roll for Morris Run. It would seem, then, that the Weidels left Morris Run in late 1874 or in 1875 and resettled in Clermont in McKean County. This move may have been timed to coincide with the satisfaction of a three-year service obligation to the company which recruited William A. in Germany. They were participating in a general exodus to the west, since the Fiddler and Fosbrook families also left Tioga County at this time to try their fortunes in the newly opened mines in McKean County.

In Clermont, William A. again worked as a coal miner. Under the rigors of that occupation his health suffered and he was forced to seek other means of making a living. He opened a small retail establishment of some kind. This was reasonably successful since it enabled him to provide for a growing family.

The picture at the left was reproduced from a tintype taken about 1880. William A. seems to be posing in a rather awkward position, not unlike that of a modern model, no doubt coached by the photographer. His tailor has left the sleeve of his jacket a bit long. Question - how did that flat bowler fit over all that hair?

Augusta appears to be composed and confident of the appearance of her odd bonnet and fur muff. In all pictures taken about this time all participants carefully refrained from smiling.

WILLIAM A. WEIDEL AND AUGUSTA MULLER WEIDEL

The 1880 census for McKean County lists William A. and Augusta with five surviving children, two of whom were born in Clermont.

This picture of Augusta was obviously taken in a photographer's studio with standard props of the time. Here again the subject observes the "no smiling" rule. The condition of the background is more apt to be due to the handling of the picture over the last 100 years, rather than to the photographer's housekeeping or lack of it. This was probably taken about 1885.

In the period from 1880 to 1887 four more children were added to the Weidel family. There is no doubt that the older girls were required to help with the younger children or perhaps to assist their father in the store. Meal times at the Weidel household must have been noisy and confused in spite of the discipline William and Augusta would have tried to impose.

Augusta taught all of her girls how to cook and they learned their lessons well. All of the Weidel children attended school, some of them longer than others. No secondary schooling was available locally.

The two boys, William and Max grew to be as tall or even taller than their father. As an adult William was six feet three inches, Max perhaps six feet one inch.

William A. never really recovered fully from his work experiences in the mines. He died in 1887 at age 42, and is buried in Clermont Cemetery. He retained the original spelling of his name for himself and for his children until he died.

This is William's grave-site on a gentle slope. The picture was taken in 1987, just one hundred years after his death.

WILLIAM A. WEIDEL AND AUGUSTA MULLER WEIDEL

The children of William and Augusta Weidel were:

Martha Elizabeth	1869-1953	Caroline	1881- ?
Agnes	1871-1871	One Other	? ?
Anna Mae	1872-1958	Max	1883- ?
William	1874-1962	Ella	1885-1958
Minerva	1876- ?	Edna	1885-1885
Bertha	1879-1942		

In 1888 Augusta was remarried to John William Steinhauer of Clermont, who was born in Pennsylvania.

John and Augusta had one child, Sophia. Refer to the Steinhauer family line for a continuation of Augusta's history and her Steinhauer descendants.

The following picture of the Steinhauer-Weidell family was taken about 1902 on the veranda of the Steinhauer farm house in Clermont. This must have been a planned occasion since many of the subjects were no longer residing in Clermont.

Steinhauer-Weidell Family - Clermont 1902

Standing in rear: Ella and William Weidell, Joseph Fiddler
On Chairs: Bertha Weidell (with zither), Martha Fiddler holding Earl Charles Fiddler, John and Augusta Steinhauer
Standing at left: Anna Weidell Lyman, Augusta Weidell (with doll), Max Weidell (holding music), Lenore Ellis Weidell
Seated on second step: Lulu Mae Fiddler (with doll), Sophia Steinhauer, Minerva Weidell
In front: Benjamin A., Joseph A. and Rena Fiddler

WILLIAM A. WEIDEL AND AUGUSTA MULLER WEIDEL AND THEIR CHILDREN

Martha Elizabeth Weidel

Martha Elizabeth Weidel was born September 9, 1869 in Berlin, Prussia. She was baptized on April 30, 1871, very shortly before the Weidel family left Germany and emigrated to America.

It is possible that the Weidels had procrastinated in the matter of Martha's baptism and christening but felt that it should be done before they sailed. It may well be that their second child Agnes was baptized at the same time and for the same reason.

Little is known of Martha's childhood in Morris Run and in Clermont. She did attend school and could read and write and perform simple arithmetic. At some time in Clermont she did take music lessons and could play the piano, but her musical training was limited. Needless to say, Martha helped with the care of her younger siblings as they appeared and in the maintenance of the Weidel household. Early on she displayed an aptitude for cooking and sewing and no doubt had plenty of practice on the Weidel cuisine and wardrobe. She developed a genuine skill in rebuilding hand-me-down clothes, which she exercised then and for three more generations.

For a while, in her later teens, Martha was employed in a millinery establishment, most likely in Smethport. This picture is of her, the attractive, pensive young lady seated on the floor at the left, with some of her young fellow-employees.

It must have been late in the day when the itinerant photographer appeared since the young lady in the center seems to be supporting four tired, leaning co-workers. And no one is smiling!

We can speculate that the Weidels were at least acquainted with the members of the Benjamin Fiddler family since they came from Tioga County about the same time in late 1874 or 1875. In a town the size of Clermont it would have been extremely unlikely that Martha Weidel and Joseph Fiddler did not know each other as they grew up.

We know for sure that they met sometime during those intervening years and were mutually attracted since Martha Weidel and Joseph Fiddler were married in Smethport on July 14, 1887.

The wedding certificate shows Martha's maiden name as Weidel, but after her father's death in that same year she changed the spelling to Weidell, as did her sisters and brothers and her mother.

The married life of Martha and Joseph Fiddler is described in "Descendants of Benjamin Fiddler and Maria Fosbrook Fiddler", written and published by two of those descendants who are also compilers of these notes.

WILLIAM A. WEIDEL AND AUGUSTA MULLER WEIDEL AND THEIR CHILDREN

Agnes Weidel, the second child of William and Augusta was a babe in arms when they embarked on their voyage to America in 1871. We assume that she was born in late 1870 or early 1871. We know that she died while they were enroute, at sea.

Two versions of the story are remembered. It was told by Martha, Agnes's older sister, many years after the event, perhaps as much as 50 years. It is doubtful that she actually remembered the particulars since she was certainly no more than 2 years old at the time. Martha's version (s) would have to have been her memory of her parents' difficult explanation of the little girl's death. In 50 years her memory may have faded and her imagination may have added inaccurate details which were not consistent from one telling to another. The same thing may have happened to the memories of her listeners after another 50 years.

One version states that Agnes died at sea and that Augusta carried the dead child in her arms until the ship landed. With hindsight of 118 years, it seems that she could have disguised the fact of death only if the voyage was virtually completed when it occurred. If any earlier there is no way Augusta could have continued such a subterfuge for any length of time without fellow-passengers and crew members becoming well aware of the true situation and insisting on other measures. Certainly if she had carried the dead child until dis-embarking the customs and immigration officials would have been aware and imposed penalties.

The other version has Agnes dying en route and being buried at sea. This telling is certainly less macabre and more rational. Granted, Augusta may have been extremely reluctant to report the situation to the ship's officers. We believe, however, that William would have persuaded her to accept reality.

Neither version specifies the nature of the child's illness. There is no doubt that her death saddened their arrival, which might otherwise have been a cause for celebration.

WILLIAM A. WEIDEL AMD AUGUSTA MULLER WEIDEL AND THEIR CHILDREN

Anna Mae Weidell Lyman and Henry Arthur Lyman

Anna Mae Weidel was born in Morris Run, Tioga County on March 27, 1872. With her family she moved to Clermont in McKean County about 1875. We know very little of Anna's childhood, but she did attend school. It is most likely that she helped her mother in tending to the younger children or perhaps helping her father in his store.

In July, 1887 Anna Mae and her fiance Henry Arthur Lyman were attendants at the wedding of her older sister Martha in Smethport. On May 5, 1888 she assisted in the birth of Martha's daughter Rena in Coal Glen, Jefferson County.

Anna Mae married Henry Arthur Lyman (always called Arthur) on July 21, 1888, probably in Clermont. Arthur was born June 1, 1863 in Cambridge, Washington County, N.Y., of English lineage.

Anna and Arthur settled in Buffalo, New York after their marriage, but returned to Clermont about 1891 to engage in a joint farming venture with Joseph and Martha Fiddler. This venture was evidently abandoned about 1895 and the Lymans returned to Buffalo. For a time Arthur operated a print shop there. The 1900 City Directory for that place lists Arthur as a painter. In 1910 the Directory lists him as a janitor. In 1912 he became the joint sexton for two churches on Richmond Avenue at Summer Street and continued in this capacity until he retired at 82.

This is Anna, about 1895.

She was an excellent cook; anyone eating at her house knew that and so did she. A typical invitation might be, "Have one of my doughnuts. They are delicious." And so they were. She was always right; they were delicious, without equal. The same applied to anything she cooked, pie, cake, cookies, even mashed potatoes and brown gravy.

Her remarks were merely statements of fact, not made boastfully. No one ever had a reason to dispute her claim. If she cooked it, she expected it to be delectable. What else?

For many years Anna's brother Max and his son Alvin lived with the Lymans. Anna became a surrogate mother for the boy, teaching him moral values and filling him with "delicious" food.

Anna was a cheerful lady with kind eyes. In later years she suffered chronically from bunions on both feet, but this problem never seemed to upset her calm, patient outlook on life. But she smiled more often with her shoes off.

WILLIAM A. WEIDEL AND AUGUSTA MULLER WEIDEL AND THEIR CHILDREN

Anna Mae Weidell Lyman and Henry Arthur Lyman

Arthur was a jovial gentleman, delighting in witty remarks. When he was in the exclusive company of men some of these remarks might be a bit earthy or "blue", but never so when ladies were present. A good part of the time his eyes would twinkle through the smoke of his corn cob pipe. His nephews would often ask if were smoking matches, since he seemed always to be lighting that pipe with a kitchen match whipped across his trousers where a bent knee stretched the cloth.

He loved pets and for many years he enjoyed the company and love of a mid-size black mongrel named Laddy, or more affectionately, Laddy-buck. That dog always knew when to put his head on Arthur's knee for ear scratching.

In the 1910-1920 period a comic strip in a Buffalo newspaper featured a character called Uncle Dudley. For some reason many of Arthur's friends and relatives called him Uncle Dudley, perhaps from a similarity of facial expression. His nieces and nephews usually shortened this affectionately to Uncle Dud.

Here are Anna and Arthur on the steps of their home on Summer Street, Buffalo, about 1950

Arthur enjoyed playing cards, Five Hundred or Pedro with his wife and another couple, nickel-dime poker with male friends and brothers-in-law. He drove a procession of strangely named used automobiles: Velie, Stewart, Durant, Stearns-Knight and Jordan among others. These were always immaculately kept notwithstanding some mechanical shortcomings. The last car he drove, was an ordinarily named Chevrolet. He still drove this while in his eighties. Anna seemed to have complete confidence in him, but no one else did. Despite everyones' fears he drove unscathed until he himself decided to quit.

WILLIAM A. WEIDEL AND AUGUSTA MULLER WEIDEL AND THEIR CHILDREN

Anna Mae Weidell Lyman and Henry Arthur Lyman

Henry Arthur Lyman died in Buffalo in 1950. He was buried in Acacia Park Cemetery, Town of Tonawanda, New York.

Anna Mae continued to live alone in the house on Summer Street in Buffalo. Her sister and her two brothers and her nieces and nephews tried to see her as often as possible, well aware of her loneliness. But she sorely missed her companion of sixty-three years. On April 2, 1958, she left to join him. She was buried beside him.

They had no children.

This is a view of the Lyman gravestone in Acacia Park. Anna and Arthur are buried in the same plot as her brother William and his wife Lenore, her sister Martha and her husband Joseph Fiddler, her sister Bertha Weidell, and her sister Ella and her husband, John Crawford.

WILLIAM A. WEIDEL AND AUGUSTA MULLER WEIDEL AND THEIR CHILDREN

William Weidell and Lenore Ellis Weidell

William Weidell was born February 12, 1874 in Morris Run, Tioga County, Pennsylvania. Shortly afterward his family moved to Clermont in McKean County. He attended school for some time, at least, and could read and write at an early age.

At the time William (or Will) was about 12 the soft coal mining industry was flourishing in McKean County and two railroads were engaged in moving the coal to points of distribution or need. Will became an employee of one of these lines, working as a messenger boy with some responsibilities for getting train crews at terminal points for shift changes. These messages were delivered on foot, or if more distant, on horseback. William also swabbed out the stables where the horses were housed. He didn't mind the delivering but he hated the shoveling.

William was a tall boy and quite rangy (he was about six feet three inches as an adult). Somewhere along the line he probably fudged a little on his age and we recall that when he was about to retire he had some problems establishing his true age.

We cannot identify the railroad he worked for in Clermont. We do know, however, that William entered the service of the New York Central Railroad System in Buffalo, N.Y. on October 1, 1889. The road for which he worked in McKean County may have been merged into or swallowed by New York Central.

At just about this time, William, his mother, his brother and his single sisters changed the spelling of their surname from Weidel to Weidell.

He proved to be a diligent employee and became a road fireman on September 1, 1892.

The picture at the left was probably taken at the time he was settling into his new job, in the spring of 1893.

We do not know the exact date of William's marriage but we know that it was in 1897, perhaps just after his promotion to engineman (locomotive engineer) on September 12 th. His bride was a Buffalo girl, Lenore Adele Ellis (Leo), who was born in New York state on December 5, 1874, the daughter of John A. Ellis and Anna M. Ellis, both natives of New York.

The 1900 census indicates that Will and Leo were living with her parents at 91 Shepard St. in Buffalo. Mr. Ellis is listed as a "car painter", perhaps a railroad employee. Will's occupation is given as "locomotive engineer."

At sometime during these or the years immediately following, the Weidells had a daughter named Mildred. She lived only a short time after birth. No other particulars are available.

WILLIAM A. WEIDEL AND AUGUSTA MULLER WEIDELL AND THEIR CHILDREN

William Weidell and Lenore Ellis Weidell

This picture shows Anna Weidell Lyman, Arthur Lyman, Ella Weidell, William, Rena Fiddler and Lenore Ellis Weidell at a meeting in Buffalo about 1905.

Evidently Ella and Rena were visiting their relatives in the big city, an occasion which called for a picture.

Here some of the subjects wear the faint beginnings of smiles, the others are very serious. The hats the ladies are wearing are very strange, each of them quite different from the others. But the opera hat William is sporting is beyond belief, and his tie is certainly out of the ordinary run.

In 1914 William was promoted to Road Foreman of Engines of the Syracuse Division of the New York Central. This was a position of considerable prestige and authority.

These were the glory days of railroading, before the days of cars by the millions, busses, airlines, motor coaches , RV's. At that time deluxe travel was by rail.

William became an executive but when a new locomotive of tremendous power and speed would be introduced he would ride the engineer's cab on the initial run, taking the throttle occasionally himself, keeping his hand in.

The city directory for Buffalo for 1915 shows the Weidells as living at 131 Goulding Avenue, on the East Side, then a rather elegant address. Leo and William are shown below on the veranda of their home. We do not know the name of the poodle Leo is holding.

WILLIAM A. WEIDEL AND AUGUSTA MULLER WEIDEL AND THEIR CHILDREN

William Weidell and Lenore Ellis Weidell

The 1920 City Directory for Buffalo shows that William and Lenore had moved again, this time to 626 East Amherst Street. Their home was brand new in a sparsely populated section of town called Kensington.

In the late 1930's the Weidells moved to a Highland Avenue address on the edge of a newly developed area. The city grew quickly around it.

This is a picture of William in front of their Highland Avenue home, obviously in an expansive mood.

William retired in 1943 and for many years thereafter the Weidells traveled to St. Petersburg, Florida for the winter months, When it became cooler they moved back to 622 Highland Avenue. And how did they travel back and forth - by rail of course! Automobiles can ride on railroads too!

They traveled elsewhere too, journeying across the states on their golden railroad passes.

Lenore died December 29, 1954, in Buffalo, after a long illness. William lived on in the Highland Avenue house until his death on December 20, 1962. They are buried in Acacia Park Cemetery, Tonawanda, New York.

WILLIAM A. WEIDEL AND AUGUSTA MULLER WEIDEL AND THEIR CHILDREN

Minerva Weidell (always called Minnie) was born in Clermont on February 23, 1876, the third child of William A. and Augusta to be born in the United States. As with the other Weidel children, we know little of her early life. She did attend school in Clermont but we do not know how extensive an education she received.

This picture of Minnie, probably taken about 1900, shows a very attractive but unsmiling young lady. About this time or a little later she met Clarence Christian LaBarr (always called Chris), a young gentleman evidently living and working in Clermont or thereabouts. Neither his birthdate nor his birthplace is known.

Minerva and Chris were married, in Clermont, about 1906 or 1907. The attire of the bridal party seems to indicate a well-attended affair of some consequence.

The wedding party, pictured below, is made up of Mrs. and Mrs. LaBarr; Rena Fiddler, Minnie's niece; Ella and Max Weidell, her sister and brother.

Presumably the LaBarrs continued to live in McKean County for a few years after their marriage.

We know that they had moved to Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania before April 5, 1916 when Chris, while at work, was involved in saving another man's life at the risk of his own. As a result, Chris was awarded $1,000 and a medal by the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission. A fellow-worker, a Frank Spirk, was also involed in the act and was similarly recognized by the Commission. On the following page are shown two excerpts from the Commission's listing of "Acts of Heroism" with an explanation of the circumstances. These two were the 1500th and 1501st acts so recognized since the Commission's founding in 1904. From its inception to 1988, 7258 awards had been made. Currently the monetary portion is $2,500.

We believe that this description understates Chris's age by about ten years.

WILLIAM A. WEIDEL AND AUGUSTA MULLER WEIDEL AND THEIR CHILDREN

Minerva Weidell LaBarr and Christian LaBarr, continued

ACTS OF HEROISM

No.	ACT	AWARD
1500	**Frank Spirk**, aged thirty, pipe-fitter, saved John Kravitz, aged twenty, pipe-fitter, from suffocation, Hellertown, Pa., April 5, 1916. Kravitz was overcome by gas while working in a tank used for cooling coke-gas. Spirk entered the tank through a manhole at the top, descended a rope nine feet to Kravitz, and tied the rope to him. Men at the top raised Kravitz through the manhole, and Spirk was then overcome by the gas. Spirk was later removed from the tank unconscious but was revived. Kravitz also was revived.	Bronze Medal and $1,000 for a worthy purpose as needed.
1501	**Clarence C. La Barr,** aged twenty-six, pipe-fitter, saved Frank Spirk from suffocation, Hellertown, Pa., April 5, 1916. (See Award 1500.) La Barr entered the tank through the manhole, descended the rope to Spirk, and tied the rope to him. Spirk was raised through the manhole, and La Barr was then overcome by the gas. A man, who had an extra rope tied to himself and was otherwise protected, descended the rope to La Barr, tied the rope to La Barr's ankles, and was then raised through the manhole. La Barr was then raised through the manhole. He was unconscious three hours but was revived.	Bronze Medal and $1,000 for a worthy purpose as needed.

Little is known now of the subsequent life of the LaBarrs, except that they lived in Olean, New York. Chris died sometime before 1937 and after his death Minerva married a Charles Purcell, of whom nothing is known. Minerva was living in July, 1937 and attended the celebration of her sister Martha's fiftieth wedding anniversary in Buffalo. We have no dates of death for Minerva, Chris or Charles.

Minerva and Christian had at least four children:

Ethel
Royal
Doris
Everal

Bertha Weidell was born on February 15, 1879 in Clermont. While still a small child she was stricken with infantile paralysis (poliomelitis). She survived but the dread disease left her with one completely paralyzed arm and a severely shrunken leg. All her life she coped, bravely, with these handicaps.

She was able to attend school and Sunday School and to participate in those group activities not requiring mobility. She was very intelligent and seemed to dismiss her problems rather lightly, without complaint.

This picture of Bertha was probably taken when she was eighteen.

Bertha never asked favors from anyone and members of her family unfailingly treated her with love and respect. She became an excellent cook and housekeeper, perhaps a step slower than others but equally capable. When a problem arose, she would devise a gadget or even just a motion to achieve what she wanted to do.

Outwardly Bert was always smiling, always cheerful, although we suspect there were many times when this was difficult for her. There must have been feelings of anger and frustration from being shackled to her physical limitations.

After her father's death in 1887, Bertha lived with her mother and step-father until 1912 when her mother died. She and her younger sister Ella moved to Buffalo to be near her sister Anna and her brother William. For the rest of her life she lived with one or the other of her sisters, or later with her brother Max or her niece Augusta.

Bertha always dressed with long sleeves, high collars and long, full skirts to mask her infirmities. She was always neat, trim, immaculate.

One of Bertha's few personal possessions was a cuckoo clock, a wall model, which we suspect belonged to her mother. Hanging from the clock were multiple strands of buttons threaded on strong cord. Small children were fascinated by these buttons, of all kinds, some very old, some rather ordinary, of metal, shell, ivory, porcelain or wood. One of her great-nephews developed his memories of Aunt Bert's buttons into a short story, which some kind publisher deigned to print sometime in the 1930's.

Bertha died in 1942, at the home of her brother Max in Buffalo. She is buried in Acacia Park Cemetery in Tonawanda in the Weidell-Fiddler-Lyman-Crawford plot.

WILLIAM A. WEIDEL AND AUGUSTA MULLER WEIDEL AND THEIR CHILDREN

Caroline Weidell was born February 4, 1881 in Clermont. She attended school there, as did her sisters and brothers. We know nothing of her early life.

She had a child , born on Christmas Day, 1898.

Caroline moved to Olean, N.Y. and subsequently married ------- Haase. The Haase's had at least two children. Caroline attended the celebration of her sister Martha's 50th wedding anniverary in Buffalo in July, 1937.

Norman Haase
August Haase

Augusta Weidell, Caroline's first child was born in Clermont on December 25, 1898. She lived with her grandmother and step-grandfather, Augusta and John Steinhauer until the elder Augusta died in 1912. Shortly after she moved to Buffalo with her aunts Ella and Bertha.

Sometime in the mid-1920's Augusta married Arnold Hurlburt, of Buffalo. She was employed as a secretary for many years with Liquid Veneer Corporation. The Hurlburts were later divorced.

Sometime later Augusta married ------ Lambert. The Lamberts lived in Massachusetts. Augusta died in August, 1969 in West Springfield, Mass.

No issue

WILLIAM A. WEIDEL AND AUGUSTA MULLER WEIDEL AND THEIR CHILDREN

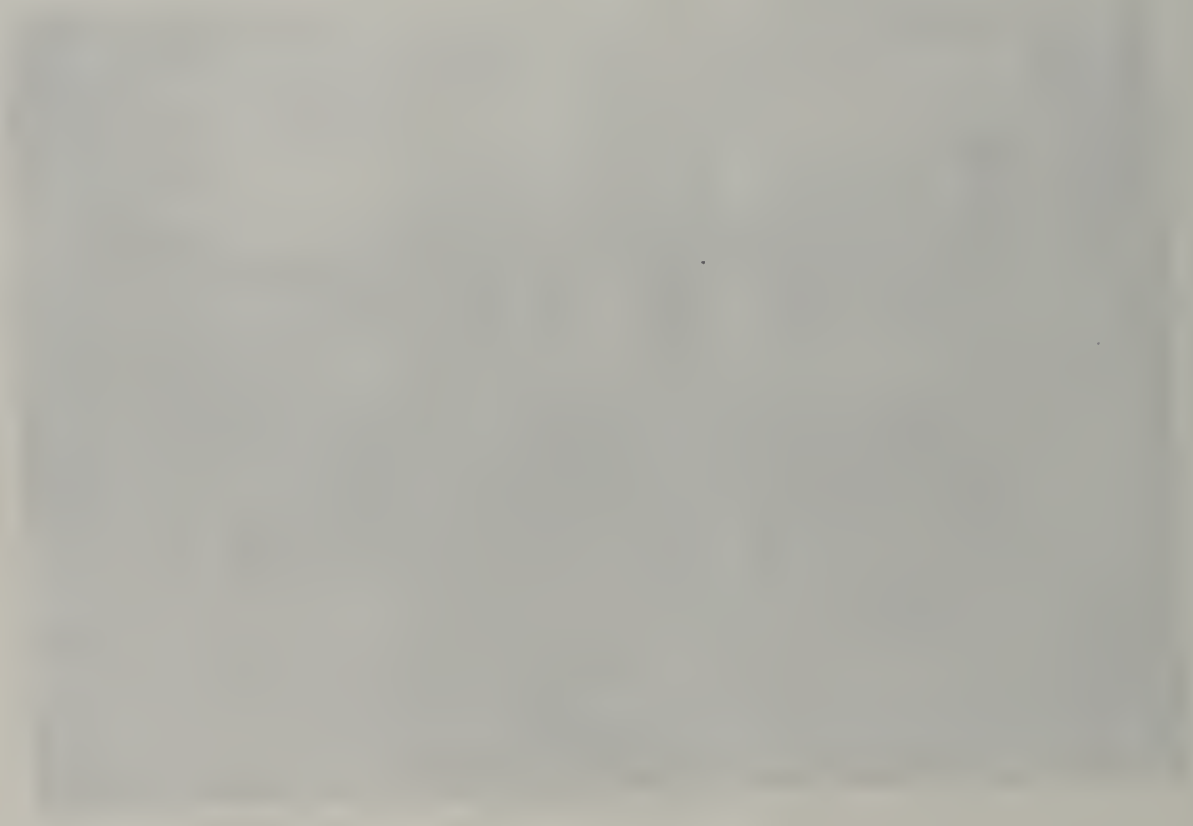
Max Weidell was born in Clermont, McKean County, on June 23, 1883. He attended school there for an indeterminate period. After the death of his father in 1887, he lived with his mother, his sisters and his step-father John Steinhauer on the Steinhauer farm.

Determined not to be trapped into the life of a coal miner or of a farmer, Max left home at an early age, certainly before 1900. His whereabouts in the interim are a mystery but in September, 1906 he was employed as a storekeeper in C.A. Anderson's general store in Colegrove. This is a town about five miles east and a bit north of Clermont. In 1900 Colegrove was a thriving place with a railroad station, an express office, a telegraph office and a population of 100.

The picture above is of the Anderson store in Colegrove in 1906. Presumably there were living quarters on the second floor. Of the four men shown, Max is the one at the extreme left, although his features are not at all clear. It looks as if they were waiting for a break in the traffic flow so they could cross the street in safety.

Max moved to Bradford in northwest McKean County in 1910 or a bit earlier. There he met, courted and married Emma Malotte. They settled in Bradford and their son Alvin was born there on October 8, 1911. Within a short time Max and Emma were separated and eventually they were divorced.

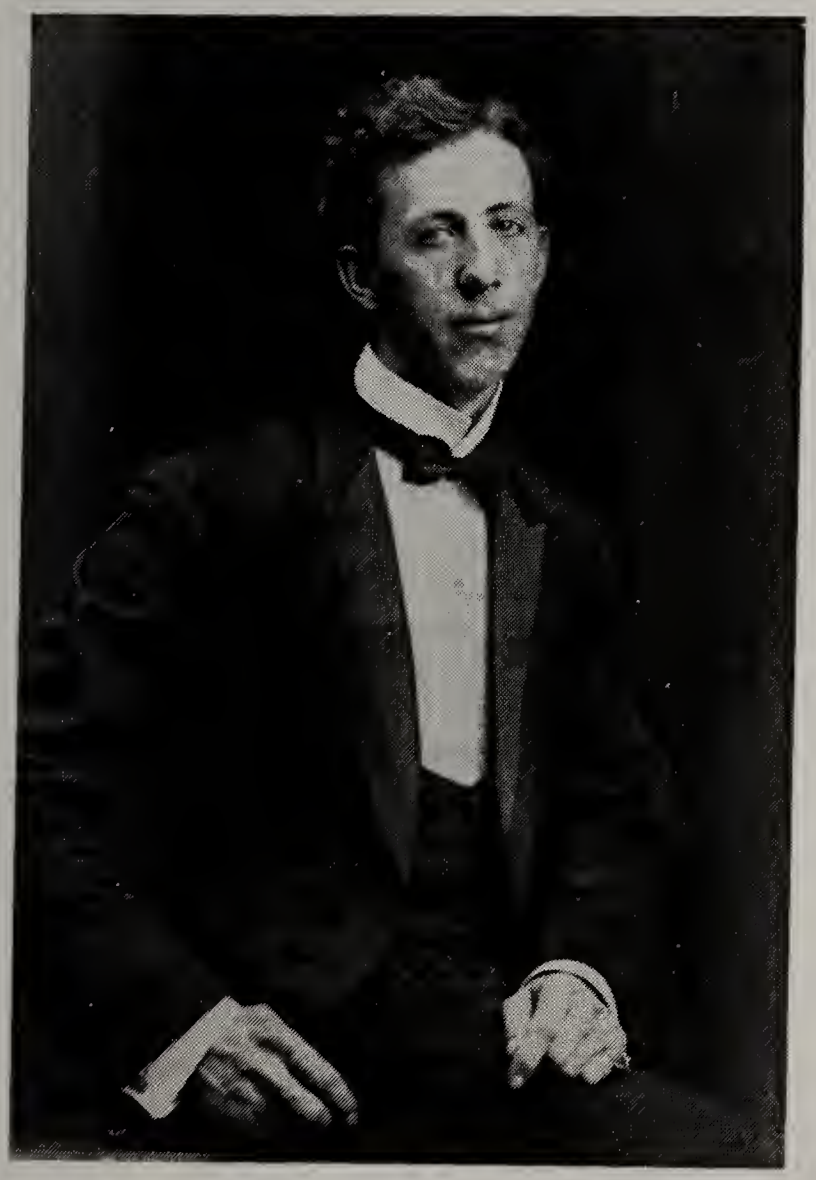
Max was still living in Bradford at the time of his mother's death in April, 1912. Within the next year or two he and Alvin moved to Buffalo to live with Max's sister Anna and her husband Arthur Lyman. Max was employed at a succession of jobs, including a stint as a street car conductor for International Rapid Transit Co. The Buffalo City Directory for 1920 classified him as a laborer, and indicated that he was residing at 83 Plymouth Avenue, which was the Lyman's home.



WILLIAM A. WEIDEL AND AUGUSTA MULLER WEIDEL AND THEIR CHILDREN

Max Weidell, continued

In the early 1920's Max began work for the Fairmont Creamery Company as a salesman and he continued his association with that company until his death.



Max was a tall man, about six feet, one inch, with a rangy frame. He liked clothes, selected them with care and good taste and wore them extremely well. He was always well turned out, even as a young man. The picture at the left will bear this out. We are unable to assign a date to it, but Max appears to be about 25 when it was taken.

He was also very careful in choosing clothes for Alvin until he could fend for himself.

Max spoke with a deep, well modulated voice, seldom loudly, and exhibited fine manners. While his formal education was limited, he learned from experience and observation, and gave the impression of erudition.

For many years Max and his son lived with the Lymans, then he established a bachelor apartment for the two of them. Later Max, Bertha Weidell and Alvin formed a household. Alvin left to be married in 1938. Bertha died in 1942 and subsequently Max lived alone.

Max died in Buffalo in the 1950's. His body was cremated.

Alvin Weidell (Al) was born October 8, 1911 in Bradford, Pennsylvania. He moved to Buffalo with his father in 1913 or thereabouts. He attended several grammar schools as the Lyman family moved from one address to another. He graduated from Fosdick-Masten Park High School in 1929.

Al was very much interested in historical trivia. He and his second cousin of the same age spent many week-end hours poring repeatedly over the memorabilia in the Historical Museum in Delaware Park, often to the despair of the docent, or curator or guard.

In the 1920's when the Hotel Statler was new and a landmark as the highest building in western New York, Al and that same cousin contrived to gain illegal entry to the roof of that building. Al gloried in the view but the cousin remembered tardily that he suffered from acrophobia and was interested only in leaving. As they were descending the first flight of stairs from the roof they were met by a panting attendant who gasped out that they could not go out there, it was prohibited. They stated that they had no such intention and hurried down the stairs.

WILLIAM A. WEIDEL AND AUGUSTA MULLER WEIDEL AND THEIR CHILDREN

Max Weidell and Emma Malotte Weidell
Alvin Weidell and Gertrude Boland Weidell

The picture at the right is of Alvin when he was seventeen, a junior in high school.

In 1938 Alvin married Gertrude Boland, who was born January 1, 1917. They bought an old farm house located on Eggert Rd.,Town of Tonawanda; it was over a hundred years old with lots of colonial charm. They labored mightily to renovate it.

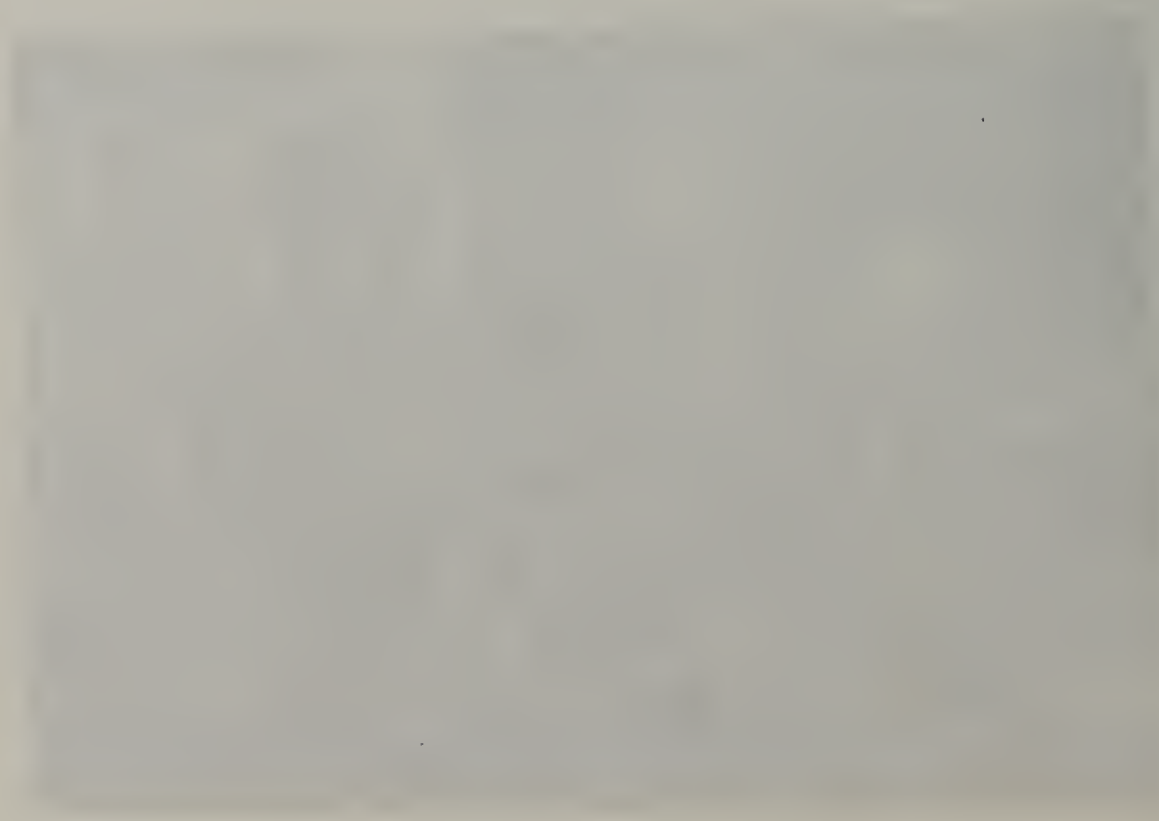
Alvin had a fine bass voice and loved to sing; he belonged to a prestigious male singing group. He served in the United States Army in Germany during and after World War II. Upon his return from service he began to work for the Parks Department of the Town of Tonawanda.

Alvin died May 17, 1973, in Tonawanda.

Gertrude was living in the city of Tonawanda in 1989.

Max Weidell was born in Tonawanda, N.Y. on October 15, 1950. He suffers from muscular dystrophy and was living in Littleton, Colorado in 1987. He has been married and divorced but no particulars are available.

A cold winter day in 1917. Udell Wiser, Al Weidell and LeOttis Wiser on the porch of the Wiser home on Breckenridge Street, Buffalo. Each of the three hats deserves a prize, but Al's is the winner. We do not know now what treasures Al was holding so carefully in the little box. Obviously he is proud of it and wished to display it.



WILLIAM A. WEIDEL AND AUGUSTA MULLER WEIDEL AND THEIR CHILDREN

Ella Weidell, a twin, was born in Clermont, McKean County on December 23, 1885. After her father's death in 1887 and her mother's marriage in 1888 to John Steinhauer, she lived with her mother and step-father on the Steinhauer farm.

She attended school in Clermont, but we have no specific information about her childhood. The picture at the left was taken when she was almost fifteen. Here she seems pensive, but she is certainly attractive and bright-eyed.

As a young lady it is likely that she had employment of some kind, although the local opportunities were not all that great. Certainly she was required to help her mother around the house, and to observe Augusta's cooking skill. There is evidence of this since many have found Ella's cooking to be first-rate.

After her mother's death in 1912, Ella, her sister Bertha and her niece Augusta moved to Buffalo to be near the Arthur Lymans and the William Weidells, who had long been settled there.

At about the same time, her brother Max and his son Alvin moved to Buffalo from Bradford. And then there were no Weidells in Clermont.

In Buffalo, Ella met and was courted by John A. Crawford (Jack). He was born in 1880 in Jefferson County, Pennsylvania. He had been living and working in Buffalo for some time. They were married, in 1913, in Buffalo, most likely at the Lyman house. This picture is of the bride about to throw her bouquet.

The Crawfords established their home in Buffalo and lived there the rest of their lives.

The 1915 Buffalo City Directory lists John A. Crawford as a salesman living on 17th Street. We know that he was employed by an insurance company at that time. The 1920 Directory indicates that he was a teacher living on Ashland Avenue. Later he was employed by the American Brass Company, operating an overhead, traveling crane-hoist in the foundry. He remained with this company for the remainder of his working life.

Ella undertook temporary work in department stores and occasionally performed housework for incapacitated persons or working parents.

WILLIAM A. WEIDEL AND AUGUSTA MULLER WEIDEL AND THEIR CHILDREN

Ella Weidell Crawford and John A. Crawford, continued

Ella was a tall, slim lady, very vivacious, witty, loaded with nervous energy. She was quick to laugh, ready to exchange repartee, always busy. Her presence at a family gathering guaranteed a good time for all. She would see to it.

This is a picture of the Crawfords at a Sunday afternoon meeting with friends and relatives, about 1935. Obviously, this has been cut from a larger picture, in which Ella and Jack are kneeling or crouching in front of other people standing. Jack wears a typical half-grin while Ella clowns a little, as was her wont.

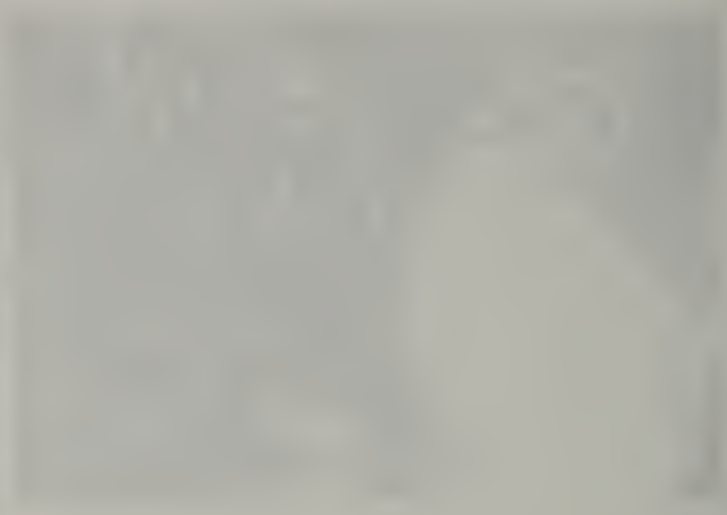
Jack Crawford was usually quiet, leaving the burden of conversation to others, but occasionally inserting a pithy comment, an observation or perhaps an expletive. When younger he was trim and slim but he became rather corpulent as he grew older and exercised less. His voice was surprisingly soft. His eyes would glint and the corners of his mouth would turn up in appreciation of an apt remark. He was always good-natured. He loved to play nickel-dime poker at family gatherings and from time to time, to indulge in a sip of the brew. John died in Buffalo in 1945.

For some time Ella lived alone, but after the death of her sister-in-law Lenore Weidell in 1954, she kept house for her brother William on Highland Avenue in Buffalo. Ella died July 28, 1958 in Buffalo.

Ella and John are buried in Acacia Park Cemetery, Town of Tonawanda in the Weidell-Fiddler-Lyman-Crawford plot.

They had no children.

This is a view of the Crawford grave-site in Acacia Park Cemetery.



Edna Weidel, a twin sister of Ella, was born December 23, 1885 in Clermont. She died as an infant, date not known.

-------- Weidel, whose date and place of birth are not known. He or she died very young, but no date or place is known. William and Augusta had eleven children but only ten can be traced.

THE STEINHAUER FAMILY

John William Steinhauer (the Elder) was born in Bavaria in Southern Germany in 1808. He served in the German Army as a young man, evidently for several years since he left an earned pension there and emigrated to the United States in 1838. Philadelphia was the port of entry. His efforts to find suitable civilian employment were unavailing and on December 20, 1839 he enlisted in the United States army for a five year hitch. He served as a private in an artillery regiment during the second Seminole War. On September 20, 1842 he received a medical discharge because of injuries received in Fort Pierce, Florida in 1841. His discharge certificate describes him as five feet seven inches high, of light complexion, with gray eyes and brown hair.

John William then became associated with a group of people of German extraction who were developing a communal settlement in McKean County, called Teutonia, on the present site of Clermont. Among the early settlers of this community were a young German named Gareise (?), his wife and two small boys. The wife, Sophia (nee Reis) who was born in 1815, was a Roman Catholic. The husband died and his widow married John William Steinhauer in a civil ceremony, probably in 1843. Very shortly after this marriage, Sophia's two sons died in an epidemic that swept through Teutonia.

Sophia was distraught by her misfortune and convinced herself that this was punishment for her marriage "outside the church." To clear her conscience, she journeyed to Buffalo, New York to consult church officials, traveling by ox-cart, stagecoach and by foot. Evidently Sophia obtained the solace she sought and she returned to John and Teutonia, presumably traveling by foot, by stagecoach and by ox-cart. At that time John and Sophia must have reached an agreement on religious matters since all of their sons were Protestants, all of their daughters were Catholics.

The Steinhauers purchased a farm from Teutonia when it disbanded and began to raise a family. The census of August, 1850 lists them as farmer and housekeeper with four children ages 6 years to about 6 months. Another child had been born, a twin to the youngest one, who died while a small infant.

Their son John B. died in 1853. According to the census of August, 1860, five children were then living, including a two year old named John William. In July, 1870, John and Sophia were living on the farm with two sons and a daughter.

John William Steinhauer (the Elder) died sometime after 1880, exact date not known. He is buried in Clermont Cemetery, Lot No.9. Sophia was struck and killed by a log train in the Clermont area on September 12, 1891. There is more about this in the Supplementary Notes. She is buried in Rasselas, Elk County.

John and Sophia had the following children:

Mary Amanda, born 1844
Elizabeth, born 1845
John B., born 1847
Louis, born 1848
Josephine, born 1850
Henry, born 1850
John William, born 1858

Mary Amanda Steinhauer was born September 16, 1844 and married John Kleisath in 1861. Mary Amanda died January 1, 1911.

Elizabeth Steinhauer was born in Teutonia in 1845.

John B. Steinhauer was born about 1847 and died in 1853. He is buried in Clermont Cemetery, with his father in Lot No.9.

THE STEINHAUER FAMILY

John William Steinhauer (the Elder) and Sophia Steinhauer

Louis Steinhauer was born in 1848 in Teutonia. He was a member of the original Clermont Cemetery Society. In 1876 he married Fannie Beckwith, who was born in Pennsylvania in 1856. Louis was a laborer and Justice of the Peace. He died in 1931 in Farmers Valley.

Theodore Steinhauer was born in 1877 in Clermont. In June, 1900 he was single and was employed as a bartender at the John Smith Hotel.

Josephine Steinhauer, a twin, was born in 1850. She married John Meisel. She died in 1936.

Lena Meisel
Joseph Meisel

Henry S. Steinhauer, a twin, was born in 1850. He died when 3 years old and is buried in Clermont Cemetery, Lot no.9.

John William Steinhauer was born in 1858 in Clermont. The 1880 census lists him as a clerk in a store. In 1888 John married Augusta Weidell, the widow of William A. Weidel of Clermont.

This picture of Augusta and John was probably taken about the time of their marriage in 1888. At that time Augusta had had eleven children, of whom eight then survived, five of whom were still living at home.

In December of 1888, the Steinhauers had a child they named Sophia, obviously for John's mother. The Weidell children and the Steinhauers lived on the Steinhauer farm.

At the time of the 1900 census in June, the household consisted of John and Augusta, Bertha and Ella Weidell and Augusta's granddaughter Augusta. Sophia Steinhauer was then less than twelve years old and was certainly a part of the household but was probably visiting elsewhere on the census date.

THE STEINHAUER FAMILY

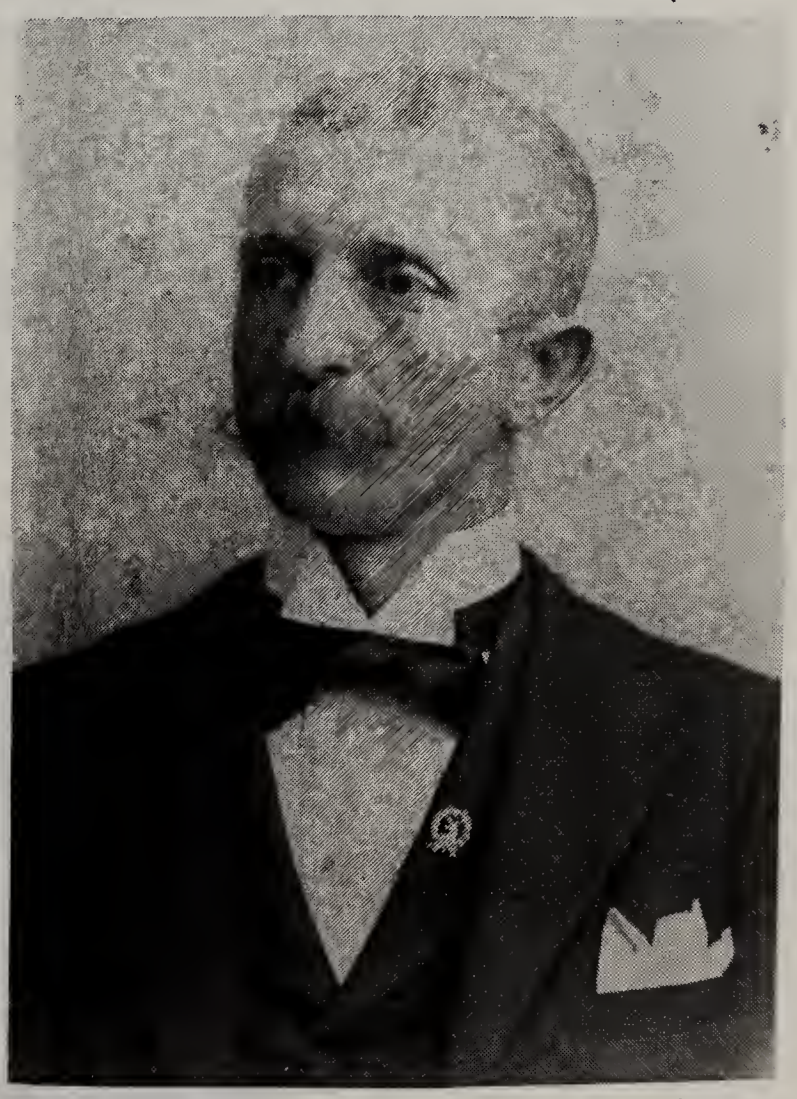
John William Steinhauer (the Elder) and Sophia Steinhauer

John William Steinhauer (the Younger) and Augusta Weidell Steinhauer

The Steinhauers became people of some substance in the community. John had evidently inherited the family farm from his father, and Augusta had substantial land holdings in the area, inherited from William A. Weidel.

Augusta became quite active in church and lodge work, and encouraged her children to participate in Sunday School activities.

This is the Methodist Church at which the Steinhauers worshipped. They were evidently staunch supporters of it.



This is John Steinhauer, perhaps about 1905. Note the pin prominently displayed on his lapel. Old time Methodists may recognize this as an award for regular attendance.

THE STEINHAUER FAMILY

John William Steinhauer (the Elder) and Sophia Steinhauer

John William Steinhauer (the Younger) and Augusta Weidell Steinhauer

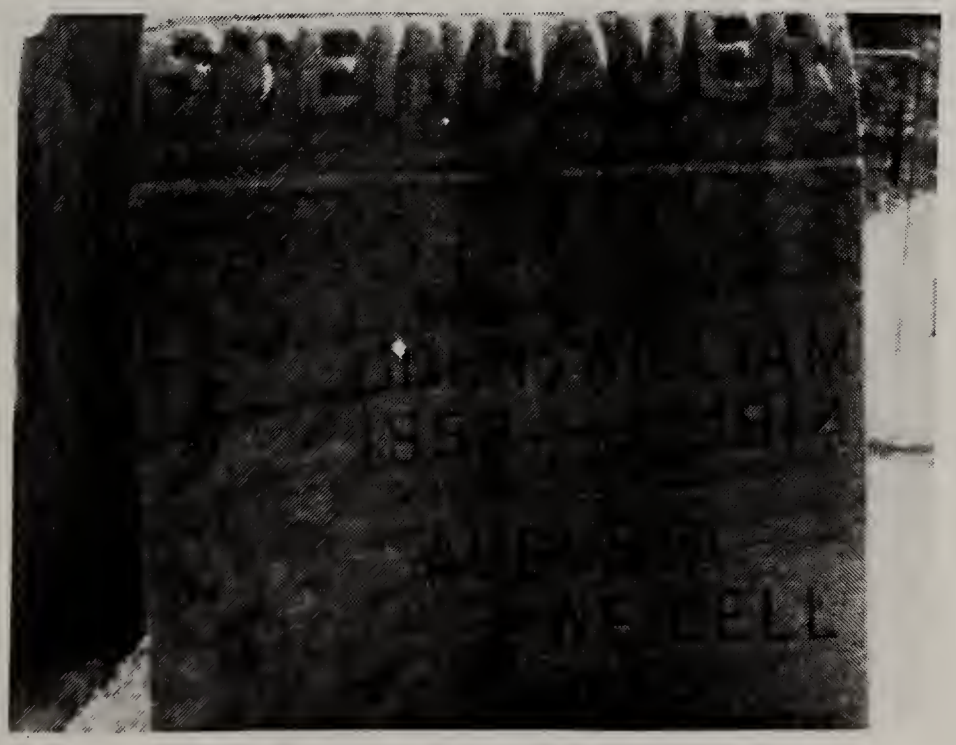
Augusta became ill in 1911 and her problems were diagnosed as cancerous. She visited the hospitals in Buffalo, New York several times but they were unable to arrest the disease. She died, at home, on April 28, 1912.

The newspaper obituary reads, in part, "She was one of God's true noble-women, and was one of the most earnest and most loved workers in the church in that community. Her death will be sorely and sincerely mourned not only in her home but in the community in which she lived."

The funeral services were held in the Methodist Church pictured above. She was interred in Clermont Cemetery.

John survived Augusta only a short time. He died in 1914, and was buried beside her.

Sophia Steinhauer was born in December, 1888, the only child of Augusta and John. On April 3, 1915, in Clermont, she married John August Shelander. Refer to THE SHELANDER FAMILY.



This is the Steinhauer grave site in Clermont Cemetery. The photo was taken in 1987.

FRANK A. SHELANDER AND AMANDA L. SHELANDER AND SOME OF THEIR DESCENDANTS

Frank A. Shelander was born in Sweden in June, 1861. He emigrated to the United States in 1880, accompanied by his older brother, Charles J. Shelander. No details are available as to the exact date or port of entry into this country. According to the census of June 14, 1880 they were then farm laborers in Sergeant Township, McKean County, Pennsylvania, boarding at the home of Andrew M. Johnson and his wife, Sophia Johnson.

The Johnsons were themselves born in Sweden and, in addition to the Shelander brothers, they also provided lodging for two other young men, also immigrants from Sweden. It is quite likely that they were all from the same Swedish town or area.

In 1882 Frank married Amanda L. -----, who was born in Sweden and emigrated in 1881. The Shelanders worked hard and prospered. In 1900 they owned and were operating a mortgage-free farm in Sergeant Township. Nor were they otherwise idle. They had had six children, all of them living on that date. Frank's brother Charles lived with them and helped in the operation of the farm.

The census of April, 1910 lists Frank as the proprietor of a general store in the village of Marvindale, Hamlin Township and indicates that he was also the owner of a farm in the area, managed by his son John, then 22.

Alas, Amanda has died sometime before 1910, the exact date not known. When Frank and his family moved to Hamlin Township, Charles remained on the Sergeant Township farm, still unmarried at 50.

Three of Frank's children were still single and living at home in 1910, John A., Edward L. and Sigrid T.

The date of Frank's death is not known, nor is the place of his and Amanda's interment.

Frank and Amanda had six children, listed below with their birthdates.

Ida S.	October, 1883
Tackla M.	January, 1886
John A.	October 31, 1887
Carl H.	March, 1889
Edward L.	November, 1891
Sigrid T.	May, 1892

FRANK A. SHELANDER AND AMANDA L. SHELANDER AND SOME OF THEIR DESCENDANTS

Frank and Amanda Shelander

John August Shelander was born October 31, 1887 in Bloomster Hollow, a small hamlet situated about midway between Kasson and Marvindale in Hamlin Township.

(The census of June 9, 1900 indicates that he was born in October, 1887. The April 1910 census lists him as 22 years old on that date. This would seem to lend credence to the 1887 birthdate. Family records show his birthdate as October 31, 1889. His younger brother Carl was born in March, 1889 which would lead to question of the 1889 date for John.)

In 1910. John was managing the family farm in Marvindale. On April 3, 1915, in Clermont, John married Sophia Steinhauer (Sophie), the only child of John William Steinhauer and Augusta Weidell Steinhauer of Clermont. Sophia was was born December 7, 1888 in Clermont.

John and Sophia operated the Marvindale farm all of the remainder of their lives. Sophie was a favorite of all of her older half-sisters and half-brothers and one or some of them often visited the Marvindale farm, coming from Buffalo or Bradford or Jefferson County. Sophie's and John's hospitality made it a fine spot for week-end outings or a few days of summer vacation.

Sophia died in Port Allegany on October 7, 1970, John in Smethport on March 27, 1973. They are buried in Mt. Nebo Cemetery in Mount Jewett.

They had three children:

Frank
John Dwight
Edward William

Frank Shelander was born June 2, 1916 in Marvindale. He died as a very young infant and is buried in Kasson, Hamlin Township.

John Dwight Shelander (Dutch) was born in Marvindale on October 31, 1918, making him eligible to celebrate a common birthday with his father. As a small boy he was completely fearless and confident when around farm animals. While still little more than a toddler, he was savagely kicked in the head by a horse in the Shelander barn. For several weeks the family despaired of his life, but he was a strong, tough kid and survived in good health. But we bet he was always careful around horses.

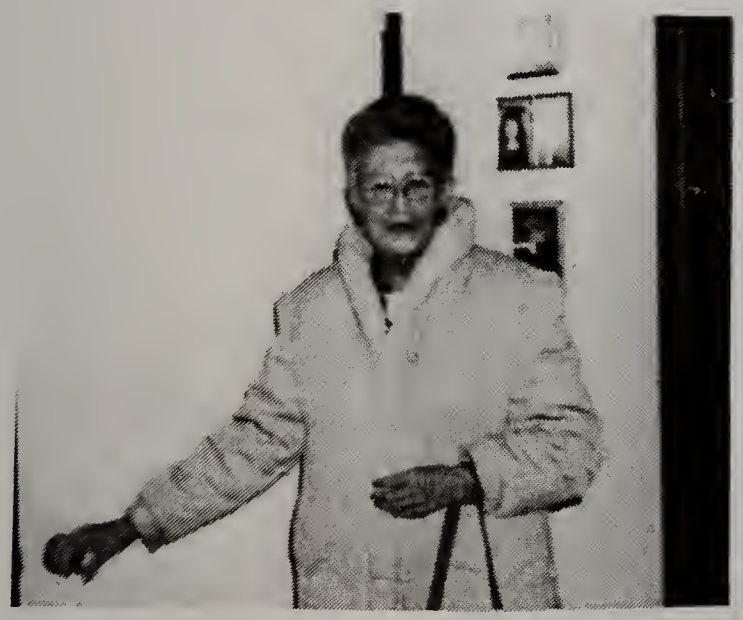
On November 9, 1939, John Dwight married Ruth Almeda Carey in Bradford. Ruth was born in Smethport on March 7, 1922.

In 1940, Dutch began his employment with the Quaker State Oil Company in Smethport and retired in October, 1981 after forty-and-a-half years of service.

FRANK A. SHELANDER AND AMANDA L. SHELANDER
AND SOME OF THEIR DESCENDANTS

Frank and Amanda Shelander
John and Sophia Shelander
John Dwight and Ruth Shelander, continued

Dutch has always been a hunter and still visits the hills in season. Perhaps he hunts a little less rigorously but still with the same enthusiasm. Ruth appears to have found the fountain of youth. She is a knitter, specializing in sweaters. There is a constant demand for the product of her flashing, clicking needles.



Here are Ruth and Dutch about to set out on a shopping expedition.
October, 1988

There are living in Smethport in 1989.

Ruth and Dutch have three children:

John William
Susan Ann
Jerry Alvin

John William Shelander was born in Kane, Pa. on June 9, 1940. In 1960, in North Carolina, he married Linda Black. John and Linda live in Fayetteville, N.C. in 1989.

John William Shelander was born in Fayetteville, N.C. in December, 1963. In June, 1984 he married Tina Poore. They live in Fayetteville in 1989.

Felicia Sue Shelander was born March 14, 1988 in Fayetteville.

FRANK A. SHELANDER AND AMANDA L. SHELANDER
AND SOME OF THEIR DESCENDANTS

Frank and Amanda Shelander
John and Sophia Shelander
John Dwight and Ruth Shelander, continued

Susan Ann Shelander was born in Kane, Pa. on July 29, 1941. On May 27, 1961, at Smethport, she married Jerry L. Mix. Susan and Jerry live in Smethport in 1989.

Steven L. Mix was born March 18, 1962, in Bradford. He married, in Mt. Jewett, Debra Danielson. This marriage ended in divorce.

Joan Ellen Mix was born at Bradford, Pa. on April 27, 1967.

This is Joan Ellen, taken in October, 1988 when she was a senior at Clarion University of Pennsylvania.

Jerry Alvin Shelander was born in Kane, Pa. on April 8, 1944. In July, 1970, in Port Allegany, he was married to Donna Hovis who had been previously married.

Wendy Lee Shelander is the daughter of Donna by her previous marriage. She was born June 10, 1966 and was adopted by Jerry Alvin Shelander at the time of his marriage to her mother.

On April 14, 1984, in Port Allegany, Wendy Lee married Jeffrey Zetwick of Smethport. They are living there in 1989.

Karie Ranee Zetwick was born on June 6, 1988 in Coudersport, Pa.

Cory Scott Shelander was born in Port Allegany, Pa. in November, 1971.

Scott Allen Shelander was born in Port Allegany, Pa. in January, 1975.

FRANK A. SHELANDER AND AMANDA L. SHELANDER
AND SOME OF THEIR DESCENDANTS

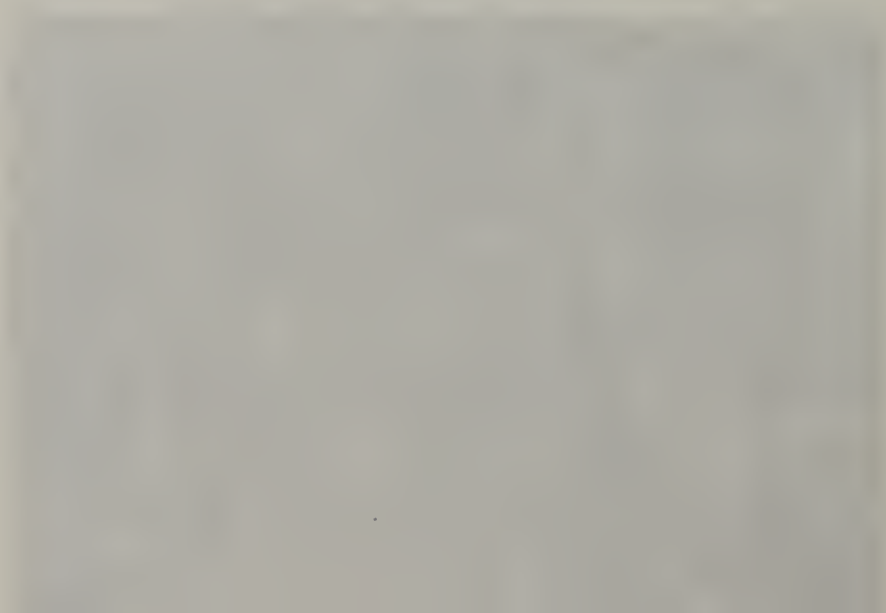
Frank and Amanda Shelander
John and Sophia Shelander
John Dwight and Ruth Shelander, continued

Dutch celebrates his 70th birthday!
Left to right: Scott Shelander, Susan Ann Mix, Dutch and Cory Shelander.

Edward William Shelander was born July 16, 1927 in Kane, Pa. He grew up on the family farm in Marvindale. On November 21, 1953, in Bradford, he married Doris Madeline Wells. Doris was born in Bradford on October 10, 1930.

Edward began to work for the Quaker State Oil Company Refinery in 1947 and is still there in 1989. He and Doris live in Smethport, not far from Ruth and Dutch.

Edward and Doris
c. 1988



FRANK A. SHELANDER AND AMANDA L. SHELANDER AND SOME OF THEIR DESCENDANTS

Frank and Amanda Shelander
John and Sophie Shelander
Edward and Doris Shelander, continued

Edward and Doris Shelander

Barbara Ann Shelander was born April 8, 1954 in Kane, Pa. On August 8, 1976, in Smethport, she married Lionel Bruce Hovis.

Jennifer Sue Hovis was born March 23, 1978 in Port Allegany, Pa.

Amanda Lynne Hovis was born November 25, 1980 in Port Allegany.

The Hovis family lives in Smethport in 1989.

Amie Jo Shelander was born in Bradford, Pa. on November 6, 1955. On July 27, 1985 at Smethport, she married Mark Lingenfelter.

Ashley Jo Lingenfelter was born September 26, 1986 in Coudersport, Potter County, Pa.

The Lingenfelters live in Emporium, Cameron County in 1989.

Martha Louise Shelander was born October 24, 1957 in Bradford. In September, 1980 she married Marion Teal, in Fayetteville, N.C.

Marcie L. Teal was born in Fayetteville, N.C. on January 16, 1981.

Leanne Marie Teal was born August 29, 1984 in Fayetteville.

Justin Edward Teal was born August 4, 1988 in Fayetteville.

The Teals live in Fayetteville in 1989.

FRANK A. SHELANDER AND AMANDA L. SHELANDER
AND SOME OF THEIR DESCENDANTS

Frank and Amanda Shelander
John and Sophia Shelander

Ruth, Dutch and a birthday cake, 1982.

John Dwight, Edward William and a brick wall, 1986.

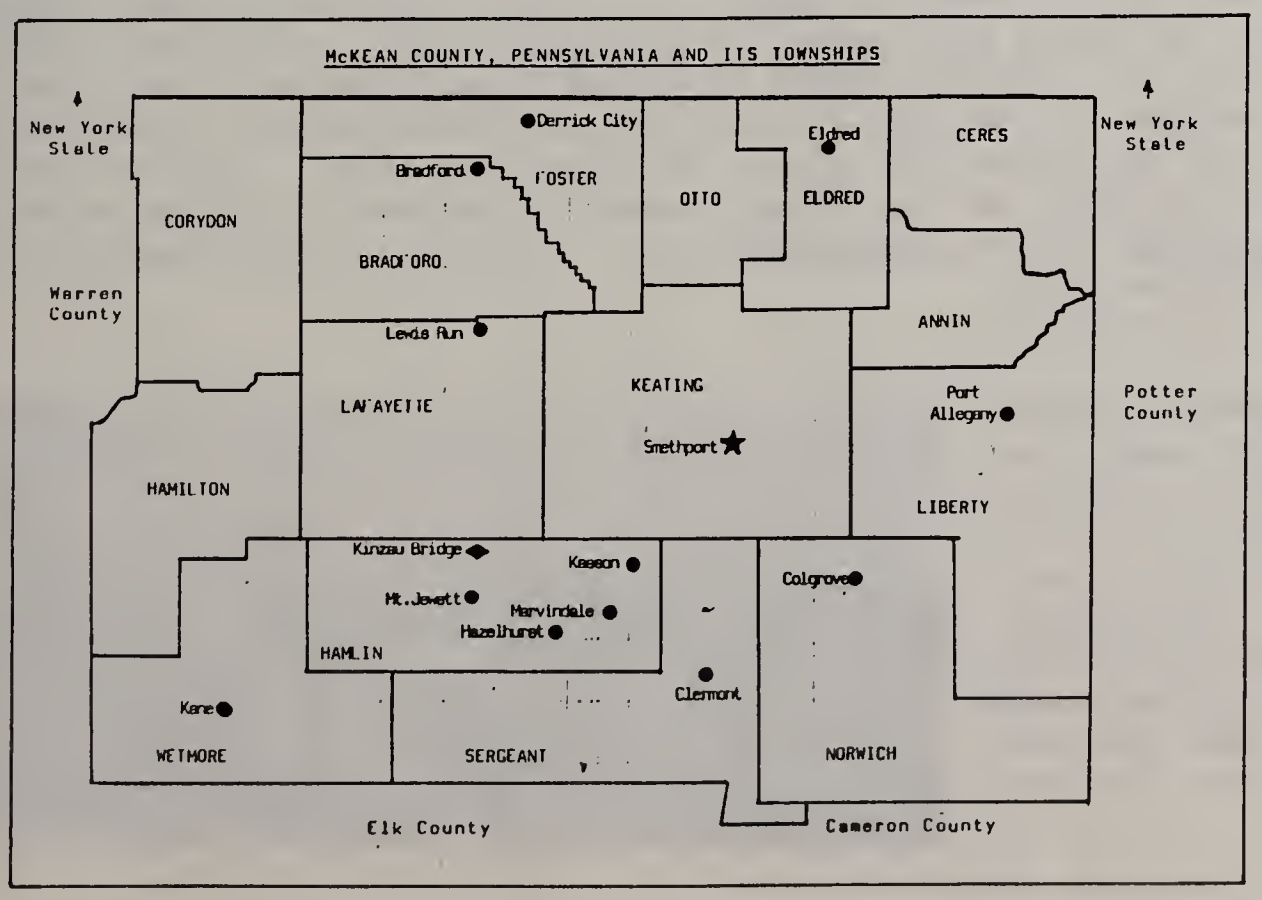
THE WEIDELL, STEINHAUER AND SHELANDER FAMILIES

Notes Regarding McKean County and the Village of Clermont

The area of upland northwestern Pennsylvania now known as McKean County was a wilderness when it was first separated from Lycoming County in 1804. It was a hunting ground for the Seneca Indians but never their home; they were seasonal, foraging transients.

New Englanders and New York Staters were the first settlers but there were few of them in the early days. In 1810 the population of the entire county was only 142. The number grew quite slowly. In 1843 a group of German immigrants established a commune called Teutonia just about where Clermont is. This organization pooled its real estate, commercial and educational activities, but practiced monogamy, freedom of religion and private family life in family homes. It lasted only a few years. The original Steinhauers in this area were Teutonians. When the commune dissolved some members moved elsewhere, but some stayed in the area as private citizens, the Steinhauers among them.

Early in the 1870's many experienced English coal miners were attracted to the mines being opened to exploit accessible coal deposits. This activity was further sparked by the advent of the Western New York and Pennsylvania Railroad in 1873, with tracks from Hamlin through Clermont to Johnsonburg and Ridgway. The Fiddlers, miners for generations, came from Tioga County, the men among them to become a part of the force of 250 to 300 miners working the Clermont seams. German immigrants followed, some of them Weidells, and in the 1880's many Swedish families came to McKean, including the Shelanders. The population had grown then to almost 9000.



This map has been especially drawn to show only locations which are mentioned in this summary.

THE WEIDELL, STEINHAUER AND SHELANDER FAMILIES

Notes Regarding McKean County and the Village of Clermont

All of the four families mentioned above are involved in our story, although only the Steinhauers and the Shelanders remain in McKean in 1988. They all lived for a number of years in the same town. We call it Clermont. but it had many names as it grew: Instanter, Bishop's Summit, Ginalsburg, Teutonia, Clermontville and finally Clermont in 1870. Oddly enough, often it was (and is) spelled "Clearmont" in publications and even in public records, but always seems to appear on maps officially without the "a".

Here are two views of Clermont in 1907. One is a close-up, the other more of a long shot. The steeple in the right background of the first view is atop the Methodist Church attended by Augusta Weidell Steinhauer. It is evident that street-cleaning facilities were unknown or unused. Passersby seem to be unconcerned about the street clutter. The large building in the center of the second picture was the sewer tile factory.

The population of Clermont was never large. The number of miners working there during the most active years would indicate a total population of 800 to 900 at that time. The profitable coal seams were exhausted and the mines were closed, leaving many miles of abandoned tunnels beneath the surface. Then the manufacturer of sewer tiles remained the only substantial employer, and it did not long survive. There were only 300 people in Clermont in 1900. The last Fiddlers were about to leave for Jefferson County and the Weidells would depart about 1912, toward Olean or Buffalo. The Steinhauers and the Shelanders remained in McKean County but not in Clermont.

In 1988 Clermont appears as a ghost town, with few permanent residents and very little activity, the vestiges of bygone days fast disappearing. But in the 1840-1900 period Clermont was a bustling town and our families were all parts of that activity.

WILLIAM A. WEIDEL AND AUGUSTA MULLER WEIDEL

Supplementary Notes

Emigration of the Weidels to America

It is impossible to state now, categorically and exactly, why William and Augusta decided to emigrate from Germany to America. A number of facts, however, provide a basis for a reasonable hypothesis.

In 1871, William was 26, Augusta 21; they had been married for three years and had two small children and little else, other than their health and dreams. No evidence has been found to indicate that either of their families was in a position to help them economically. William had served a term in the Prussian army, but future additional compulsory service was possible and perhaps even imminent as Count von Bismarck and Kaiser Wilhelm I began forging a militaristic modern Germany under the Hohenzollern banner.

The economic and social position of Prussia and Germany suffered under the extreme demands for military prowess and success. This would certainly have affected the Weidels since their prospect was only to compete with millions of other Germans in similar circumstances for what limited commercial and employment opportunities remained.

In the United States, following the Civil War, there were not enough workers to fill all the jobs that were opening every day as astute (or lucky) business men began enterprises in mining, agriculture, railroad building, land clearing and lumbering, construction and burgeoning manufacturing of all kinds. Unable to satisfy the demand at home, American companies expanded employee recruitment in Europe. Millions of Europeans turned toward America as the answer to their prayers.

The Weidels were probably among these. There are indications that William was recruited by the Tioga County mining company and that he and his family were brought to this country under its aegis. No record of individual entry can be found in the 1871 records under the names Weidel or Miller (Muller). The first reference to the Weidel name here was in Morris Run, a company mining town in Tioga County.

At Home with the Weidels

In the experience of the compilers, none of the children of William and Augusta Weidel spoke German an as adult, except in a sudden expletive or in reciting the words of an old folk song or of a prayer.

William and Augusta were literate people, with some education, probably limited. We do not know whether or not they had any knowledge of English when they came to this country, but we believe that all of their children received an education of sorts not extending beyond grammar school. It is doubtful that secondary education was available locally at that time. Since the Weidels' neighbors and the children's playmates were predominantly English-speaking, it is unlikely that much German was spoken at home, after the first few years in America.

WILLIAM A. WEIDEL AND AUGUSTA MULLER WEIDEL

Supplementary Notes

William's Military Service

In the 1930's there was extant a small picture of William in military regalia, standing erectly, hand on sword hilt. He wore a maroon gold-frogged tunic, with a wide sash draped diagonally from shoulder to belt, a black bearskin busby on his head. His features above the chin-strap were composed, without expression. The picture appeared to be a tinted photograph. Its present whereabouts are unknown.

At that time, an educated, cultured Swiss gentleman, when shown the picture, declared without hesitation that the uniform identified a member of the Kaiser's Guard, an elite corps, limited to soldiers at least six feet tall, subject to special training and types of service.

All we know for sure is that William was tall enough and that he had served in in the Prussian army before 1871 and that he wanted no more of it.

Augusta's Relatives

Martha, the oldest child of William and Augusta, who became the grandmother of the compilers of these notes, several times stated to one or the other of them, separately or together, that Augusta's relatives accompanied the Weidels on their voyage to America.

The 1880 census of Sergeant Township, McKean County, lists the following:

One Household
Miller, Augustus, 24, a coal miner, born in Prussia
Miller, Mary, 19, his wife, born in England

Another Household
Miller, John, 57, a widower, a laborer, born in Prussia
Miller, Matilda, 14, grand-daughter

And we know:

Augusta's maiden name was Muller, which her relatives anglicized immediately upon arrival in America - thus Miller.

Her brother's name was Augustus, or August.

We can reasonably assume then, that Augusta's father and brother accompanied the the Weidels to Tioga County and thence to McKean County. It is possible that Augusta's mother also came to America and died before 1880. We are unable to place Matilda.

WILLIAM A. WEIDEL AND AUGUSTA MULLER WEIDEL

Supplementary Notes

Weidel or Weidell?

There is no doubt that Weidel was the true and original family name of these people who were our ancestors. It was pronounced "Why-dul" with both syllables equally accented.

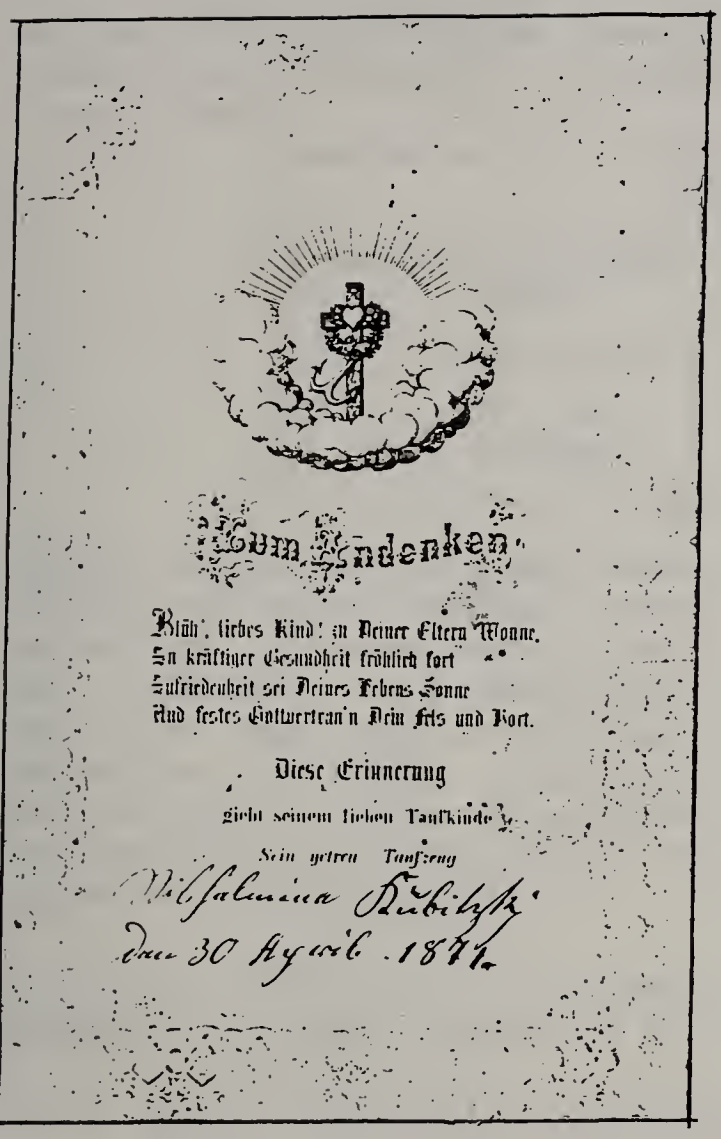
Anglicizing the spelling and pronunciation of non-English surnames was a common practice among newly arrived immigrants. They did this to lessen their feelings of alienness and to signal their desire and intent to be a part of, and to share in, the affairs and the destiny of the country where they hoped to live the rest of their lives.

We think that the desirability of such a change was proposed to William more than once and that each time he obstinately refused, perhaps with some heat, fully justified in native Teutonic pride. The facts are that his wife and children were all Weidels until a short time after his death, when they all became Weidells, apparently simultaneously. Not only did their name now look different but it also sounded different. The newly selected pronunciation was "Why-dell" with a heavy accent on the second syllable.

Was this a bone of contention between William and Augusta? Perhaps, but if it was, it ended in a draw. His gravestone in Clermont Cemetery reads "William A. Weidel," while in another part of the same cemetery, in the Steinhauer plot, her memorial reads "Steinhauer, Augusta Weidell."

MARTHA ELIZABETH WEIDEL

Supplementary Notes



Zum Andenken

Blüh', liebes Kind! zu Deiner Eltern Wonne,
In kräftiger Gesundheit fröhlich fort
Zufriedenheit sei Deines Lebens Sonne
Und festes Gottvertrau'n Dein Fels und Port.

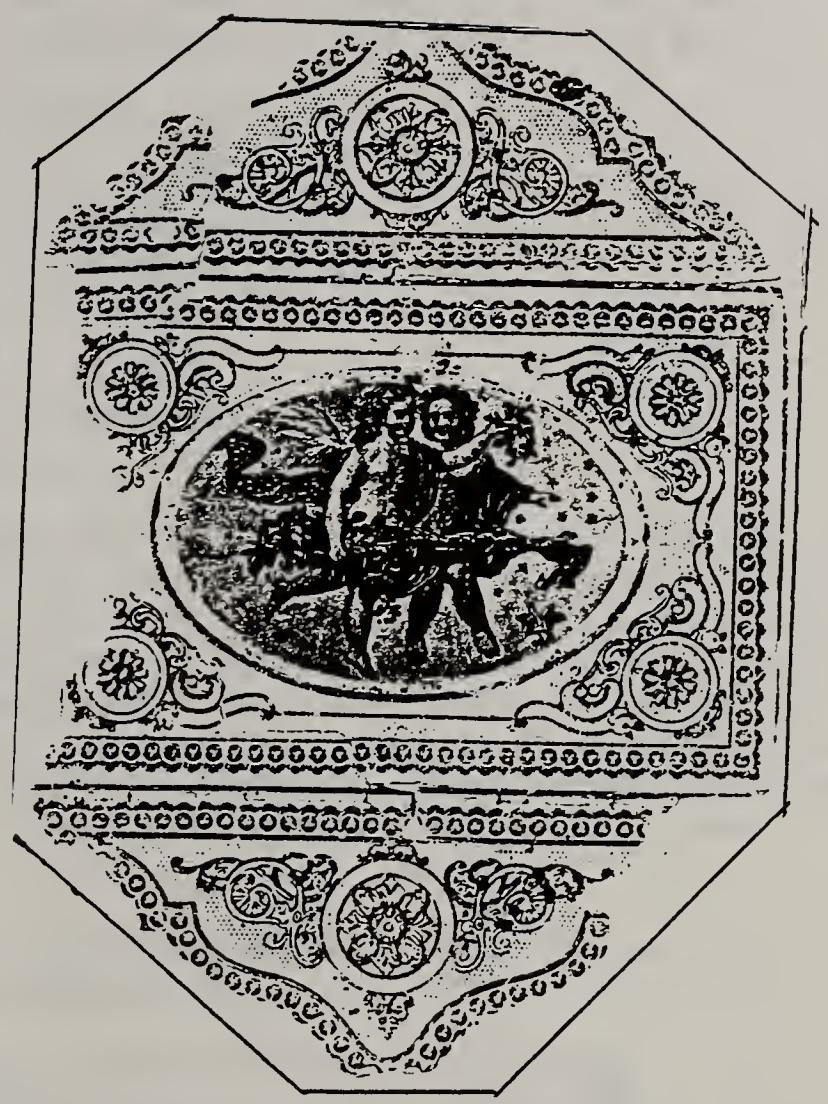
Diese Erinnerung

giebt seinem lieben Taufkinde

Sein getreu Taufzeug

Wilhalmina Rubitzky

den 30 April 1871.



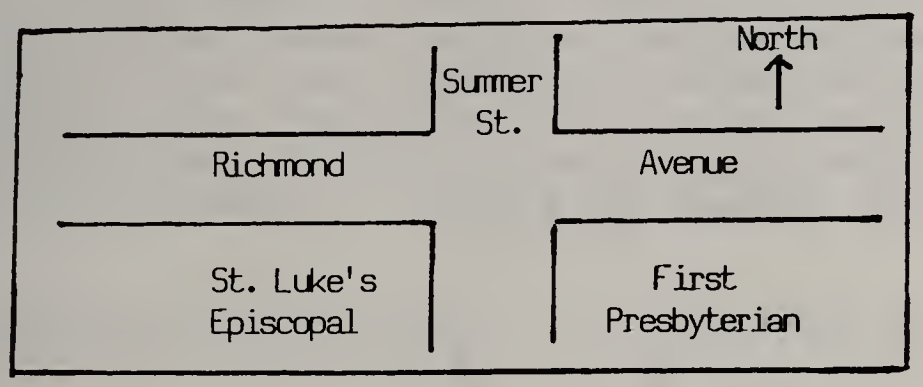
This is a memento of Martha's christening, evidently presented by a family friend. Roughly translated, it reads: "Remembrance. Dear Lord, bless this child and her parents. (Grant) that the baby has good health, is happy and satisfied, and that she lives in the sunshine. Trust in the Lord, whatever He does. In memory of this christening. (Signed) Wilhalmina Rubitsky, 30 April, 1871."

This message was enfolded in an elaborately decorated cover or envelope. It is now incomplete and very fragile. The remainder is reproduced above, right.

Martha once told one of her grandchildren of an experience on shipboard enroute to this country in 1871. It involved the ship's sanitary facilities. We gather that there was a long series of small enclosures along the ship's side. Martha entered one, unaccompanied, accomplished her mission, but upon emerging she lost her bearings and became lost. Frightened, she raised quite a fuss until someone guided her to her family. If we remember that she was less than two years old, we can easily understand her fright. Augusta may have been preoccupied with Agnes's illness but where was William? Perhaps it was "Ladies Only."

Supplementary Notes

In 1912 Henry Arthur Lyman became the sexton for two neighboring churches in Buffalo, the First United Presbyterian and St. Luke's Episcopal, on the southwestern and southeastern corners of the intersection of Richmond Avenue and Summer Street.



Arthur did all of the sexton work for both churches, hand-feeding coal-burning boilers during cold Buffalo winters and shoveling snow from the sidewalks on each corner lot, often beginning when it was still pitch dark on a snowy Sunday morning. His tools - a long-handled coal scoop and a wide-blade snow shovel. Imagine mowing two huge lawns with a muscle-powered hand mower every week in summer. No mechanical assistance except in the later years. One of the compilers remembers helping Anna dust the wooden pews on a Saturday afternoon. There seemed to be miles of them. Finish at one church, begin at the other. Pews, pews, endless pews! We should have helped more.

On June 2, 1937 the two churches held a joint dinner to celebrate 25 years of Arthur's continuous service to the two congregations.

FFALO COURIER-EXPRESS, THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 1937

Two Churches Pay Tribute to Sexton: Henry A. Lyman, for 25 years sexton of St. Luke's Episcopal Church and First United Presbyterian Church, was honored last night by the congregations of both churches. In the picture, left to right, are: The Rev. Roderic Lee Smith, the Rev. Charles D. Broughton, Mr. Lyman, Mrs. Lyman and the Rev. John S. Carrie.

This picture accompanied a descriptive article in the Buffale morning newspaper on the day following the dinner. Arthur and Anna are not hard to identify.

Eight years later Arthur retired. He was only 82.

WILLIAM WEIDELL AND LENORE ELLIS WEIDELL

Supplementary Notes

William's Long Career in Railroading

When William retired January 1, 1943, a Testimonial Dinner was given in his honor by the New York Central System executives and the employees of his department. It was a gala affair at the Hotel Lafayette in Buffalo on January 5th, just four days after the official date. Reproduced below are the cover (left) and the inside cover (right) of the program. The latter covers a brief description of his career and progress with the railroad. William was immensely pleased and proud, as well he might be.

TESTIMONIAL DINNER

IN HONOR OF

WILLIAM WEIDELL

Hotel Lafayette,
Buffalo, N. Y.

Tuesday,
January 5, 1943

WILLIAM WEIDELL was born at Morris Run, Pa., February 12th, 1874, and entered the service at Buffalo, N. Y., October 1st, 1889. He was promoted to road fireman on September 1st, 1892, and to engineman on September 12th, 1897. In 1914 he was made Road Foreman of Engines on the Syracuse Division which position he held until his retirement on January 1st, 1943, after 53 years and 3 months of continuous service with the New York Central System.

Mr. Weidell has ridden the engine and supervised the handling of special trains for President Roosevelt, The Royal King and Queen of England, as well as first trip of Twentieth Century Limited and the Streamlined Empire State Express.

For many years afterward it was apparent that he had become a sort of company legend. The following picture was taken on a wintry night shortly before he retired. It was the occasion of the first run of a new locomotive on the Twentieth Century Limited. Obviously the trainmen selected for this run are veterans. It appears that William has come to wish them well, rather than to help with the driving. And everyone is very grim.

Supplementary Notes

Hunting

William loved to hunt and traveled throughout this country and Canada in search of deer, caribou, moose, elk and bear. Mounted trophies of his hunts, with appropriate identification, hung on the walls of many members of his family. He had a favorite story describing how he shot a salmon through the head with a rifle while the fish was in mid-leap swimming upstream to spawn. Accused of making up a whopper, he would grin and insist it was true. No listener was ever quite sure, Will was so serious and sincere in the telling.

Family Gatherings

Family gatherings were William's delight. He would attend except when his work kept him away. These might be picnics on summer holidays and indoor parties in the colder weather. He would talk and joke with everyone present regardless of age and would reminisce with the older ones.

He loved his people, fun, good food, a good cigar, jokes, poker, dogs, work and an occasional nip. William was a kindly, gentle man, fondly regarded by all who knew him. He became a man of comfortable means but always stood ready to help a family member in financial trouble.

Lenore

Lenore was a very pretty lady, with exquisite manners, always nicely turned out. She was usually quiet, but when she spoke it was softly, in a well-modulated voice. And she could cook, too.

The compilers of these notes, then 7 and 6 years of age, recall visiting Uncle Will and Aunt Leo (their great uncle and aunt) on a Sunday afternoon in the summer of 1917. At this time the Weidells lived on Goulding Avenue on the newer east side of Buffalo, then a relatively affluent neighborhood.

The journey was by trolley, on a long circuitous route, from our house on the west side; several transfers were required. Aunt Leo served huckleberry pie with vanilla ice cream. What a wonderful day! Our first long, venturesome trolley ride, the sights and sounds of a growing city, a taste of how the other half lived, our introduction to pie a-la-mode!

JOHN WILLIAM STEINHAUER (THE ELDER) AND SOPHIA STEINHAUER

Supplementary Notes

The Strange Circumstances of the Death of Mrs. Steinhauer

The following is taken from The Weekly Herald of St. Marys, Pa. for 9/26/1891:

> Mrs. John Steinhauer of Clermont met her death in a horrible manner on the Johnsonburg Railroad at Instanter last Saturday morning. Mrs. Steinhauer had been on a visit to her daughter who resides at Rasselas and on Saturday morning she had started to walk to Instanter about a mile distant for the purpose of taking the train for Clermont.
>
> She was making the trip over Henry Shimmelfeng's log railroad from Williamsville to Instanter and before she had completed her journey, a car loaded with logs came down the log railroad, and the old lady stepped off the track and sat down where she supposed she would be out of danger. In this, she was mistaken as when the heavily loaded car came along, the projecting bolster struck her head, fracturing her skull. She only survived her injuries two hours.
>
> Mrs. Steinhauer was eighty years of age. Her remains were laid to rest in the Rasselas Cemetery.

The following comment is offered to further explain the circumstances. The Shimmelfeng saw mill was on comparatively low ground at a point south of Clermont. Logging areas at higher levels several miles northeast were connected to the saw mill by railroad tracks. The saw mill people pulled empty log cars up the track grade to the logging site. These cars were there loaded with logs and allowed to roll down the tracks under their own momentum and the pull of gravity, sometimes attaining considerable speed, uncontrolled.

Another version of the accident places the old lady on a "short-cut" trestle, where she was unable to get out of the way of the rolling cars without leaping off to certain death.

The newspaper version would probably indicate culpability of the saw mill operators for poor loading or over-loading. The other story, of course, would fix the liability for negligence on Mrs. Steinhauer since trestles are normally closed to transit on foot.

There is no record of litigation in regard to this accident.

WEIDELL FAMILY OUTINGS

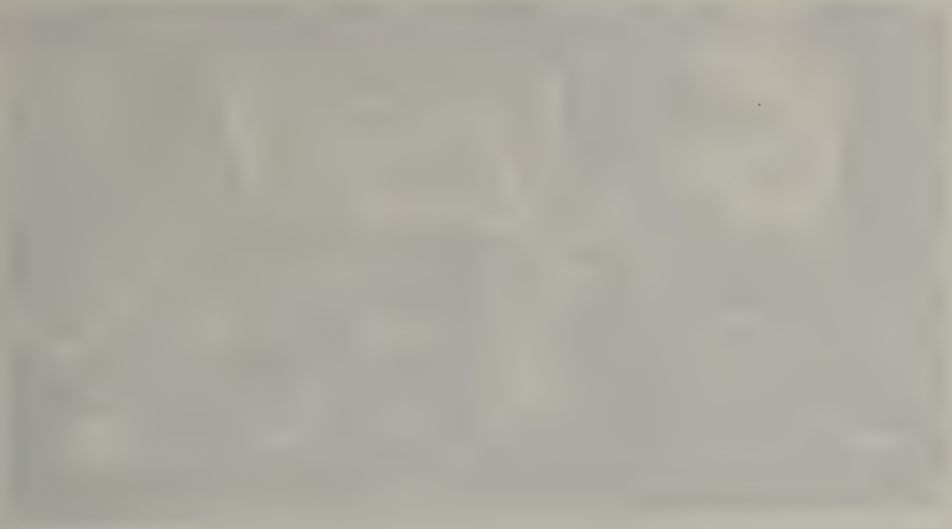
All of the Weidells enjoyed family gatherings. In summer one or two outings were common, often coinciding with Memorial Day or Independence Day or Labor Day. Lots of people came, since the nice weather allowed comparatively easy travel, even over some distance. Winter house parties were smaller, usually limited to those living near-by, but there was always a houseful. Of course there was food, great quantities of it, of every variety, always mouth-watering.

The ladies talked when they were not busy setting out food, cleaning up and repacking remainders, exchanging news of the family and perhaps recalling events of older times. The kids indulged in all sorts of mischief, noisy, underfoot. Perhaps the younger ones napped on car seats. The older boys played catch or mumblety-peg. The men talked too, of baseball, prize-fighting, politics, the economy. Some smoked cigars; some played nickel-dime poker at one end of a picnic table. The compilers of these notes were quite young at these affairs and perhaps not too observant, but they do not recall any drinking except tea, coffee, lemon-ade or home-made root beer.

One such outing was at Niagara Falls in the summer of 1917. Three pictures of its participants are available, although the quality of the prints is not of the best. At the left is the right hand portion of a line-up. Left to right: Lulu Ross, Joseph A. Fiddler (peeking), Augusta Weidell, William Weidell, Anna Lyman, Martha and Joseph Fiddler, Rena Wiser, Lenore Weidell. In front Milton U. & LeOttis Wiser.

Below: later, eating. Clockwise from twelve. Ella Crawford leading the cheers as usual, several people obscured, Arthur Lyman, Max Weidell, Arthur Campbell (a family friend), Alvin Weidell, Augusta Weidell, Lulu and George Ross, Joseph A. Fiddler, Rena, Udell, LeOttis and Frank Wiser, William Weidell.

At the right: Frank Wiser, Martha Fiddler, Ella Crawford, Milton U. and LeOttis Wiser.



WEIDELL FAMILY OUTINGS

The gathering pictured below may have taken place in the summer of 1923, at some point roughly equi-distant from Marvindale, Pa., Olean, N.Y. and Buffalo, N.Y. since there are people present from each place.

Standing, left to right: Jack Crawford, Sophia Shelander, Betty Fiddler, Ella Crawford, John Shelander (standing on a bench?) Till Jacquett, Joseph A. Fiddler, Rena Wiser, Lenore Weidell, Bertha Weidell, Hilder Fiddler, Minnie Purcell, Martha Fiddler, Caroline Haase, Anna Lyman.

Seated on bench: Udell Wiser, Benjamin Fiddler holding Clyde, Augusta Weidell holding Wayne Fiddler, Will Jacquett, William Weidell, LeOttis Wiser, Joseph Fiddler, Arthur Lyman.

In front: Dwight Shelander, Royal LaBarr, Max and Alvin Weidell, Charles Purcell, Ethel, Doris and Everal LaBarr. Earl Fiddler was probably the photographer.

The picture at the left was derived from an old, battered tin-type, but is worthy of display and comment. William Weidell in a mustache, a wing-collar and a derby hat leaves us speechless.

His niece Lulu Fiddler appears to be wearing a hat, borrowed from someone with a much larger head. How many hat-pins were needed to hold it?

We are sure that head-gear of that type was in style at the time, or Lulu surely would have shunned it.

We think that this was taken about 1907 on the occasion of Lulu and her sister Rena visiting their Uncle Will and Aunt Lenore.

WEIDELL FAMILY OUTINGS

Here are four pictures of participants in a comparatively small gathering at Kinzau Bridge, McKean County, about 1931.

Edward, Sophia and Dwight Shelander, Jack Crawford, William Weidell, Arthur Lyman, Joseph Fiddler, Martha Fiddler, Ella Crawford, Bertha Weidell, Anna Lyman.

Photographer: John Shelander

Edward, Sophia, John and Dwight Shelander, Jack Crawford, Arthur Lyman, Joseph Fiddler, Martha Fiddler, Ella Crawford, Bertha Weidell, Anna Lyman.

Photographer: William Weidell

Weidell car and driver. On the running-board: Anna, Bertha, Martha, Ella. Sophia is behind the car, evidently unaware that she will appear in the picture.

Five sisters and one son-nephew. Edward, Sophia, Martha, Bertha, Ella and Anna.

WILLIAM A. WEIDEL AND AUGUSTA MULLER WEIDEL AND THEIR DESCENDANTS

Augusta H. Muller
1850-1912
m.1 William A. Weidel
m.2 John W. Steinhauer

1 Martha E. Weidell
1869-1953
m. Joseph Fiddler
1866-1942
→ Refer to Descendants of Benjamin Fiddler and Maria Fosbrook Fiddler

1 Agnes Weidel
1870-1871

1 Anna Mae Weidell
1872-1958
m. Henry Arthur Lyman
1863-1950

1 William Weidell
1874-1962
m. Lenore A. Ellis
1874-1954
→ Mildred Weidell
Died young

1 Minerva Weidell
1876- ?
m. C. Christian LaBarr
m. Charles Purcell
- 1 Ethel LaBarr
- 1 Royal LaBarr
- 1 Doris LaBarr
- 1 Everal LaBarr

1 Bertha Weidell
1879-1942

1 Caroline Weidell
1881- ?
m. ------- Haase
- Augusta Weidell
1898-1969
m.1 Arnold Hurlburt
m.2 ------ Lambert
- Norman Haase
- August Haase

1 Max Weidell
1883- ?
m. Emma Malotte
→ Alvin Weidell
1911-1973
m. Gertrude Boland
1917-
→ Max Weidell
1950-

1 Ella Weidell
1885-1958
m. John A. Crawford
1880-1945

1 Edna Weidell
1885-1885

1 One Other
d.y.

2 Sophia Steinhauer
1888-1970
m. John Shelander
1887-1973
→ See Chart C

JOHN W. STEINHAUER AND SOPHIA STEINHAUER AND SOME OF THEIR DESCENDANTS

Mary Amanda Steinhauer
1844-1911
m. John Kleisath

Elizabeth Steinhauer
1845- ?

John B. Steinhauer
1848-1853

John W. Steinhauer
1808- ?
m. Sophia -----
1815-1891

Louis Steinhauer
1848-1911
m. Fannie Beckwith

Theordore Steinhauer
1877- ?

Josephine Steinhauer
1850- ?
m. John Meisel

Henry S. Steinhauer
1850- d.y.

John William Steinhauer
1858-1914
m. Augusta Weidell
1850-1912 ~

Sophia Steinhauer
1888-1970
m. John Shelander
1887-1973

CHART C

FRANK A. SHELANDER AND AMANDA L. SHELANDER AND SOME OF THEIR DESCENDANTS

Frank A. Shelander
1861- ?
m. Amanda L. -----

John August Shelander
1887-1973
m. Sophia Steinhauer
1888-1970

Frank Shelander
1916- d.y.

John D. Shelander
1918-
m. Ruth Almeda Carey
1922-

Edward W. Shelander
1927-
m. Doris M. Wells
1930-

John William Shelander
1940-
m. Linda Black

John William Shelander
1963-
m. Tina Poore

Felicia Sue Shelander
1988-

Susan Ann Shelander
1941-
m. Jerry L. Mix

Steven L. Mix
1962-
m. Debra Danielson

Joan Ellen Mix
1967-

Jerry Alvin Shelander
1944-
m. Donna Hovis

Wendy Lee Shelander *
1966-
m. Jeffrey Zelwick
* Adopted 1970

Karie Raner Zelwick
1988-

Cory Scott Shelander
1971-

Scott Allen Shelander
1975-

Barbara Ann Shelander
1954-
m. Lionel Bruce Hovis

Jennifer Sue Hovis
1978-

Amanda Lynne Hovis
1980-

Amie Jo Shelander
1955-
m. Mark Lingenfelter

Ashley Jo Lingenfelter
1986

Martha L. Shelander
1957-
m. Marion Teal

Marcie L. Teal
1981-

Teanna Marie Teal
1984-

Justin Edward Teal
1988-

THE WEIDELL, STEINHAUER AND SHELANDER FAMILIES OF McKEAN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

Alphabetic Index of Proper Names

Many people are mentioned in the foregoing pages, some repeatedly, some only fleetingly. A few are historical figures. Most of the others are somehow related to each other and to us. The names of all of these are listed here, in alphabetic order.

The names Weidel and Weidell are shown pretty much as they appear in the text. Generally all members of the Weidel family are so-called in referring to happenings prior to the death of William A. Weidel. In describing events which occurred subsequently, the longer, Weidell, spelling is used. The compilers make no claims of absolute consistency in this respect. Let the reader beware!

Married women are listed under the maiden and married names, as dictated by chronology. In listing the married name, her maiden name is shown in parenthses following her given name or names. Thus:

Married name, given name or names, (maiden surname)

If a married woman had been married previously, the name of her earlier husband follows her maiden name, in a separate set of parentheses. This name may be abbreviated if available line space is limited.

A reference to a married woman may show a page number on which the maiden name appears, or vice versa.

A specific name may appear several times on a single page of the text. In this index the page number is shown but once for that name.

No nick-names are listed in the Index.

The abbreviations "(Eld.)" and "(Ygr.)" designate "The Elder" or the "Younger" and are used when line space is limited.

Introductory pages are indicated by lower case Roman numerals. Capital letters designate Charts. Arabic numerals are used for the regular text.

THE WEIDELL, STEINHAUER AND SHELANDER FAMILIES OF McKEAN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

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